

Life Group Notes 3/15/2026 Mark Warren Formed on Mission— Week Two

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Leaders: *please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions that follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.*

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 3/15. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another***

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

This format begins with a summary of the notes, followed by study questions. This week, notes in full detail can be found beginning on page 3:_____

Section I: Summary

Here's "co-pilot's" AI summary of the Sermon Lifegroup Notes

The message emphasizes that being "on mission" begins with humility and a transformed way of seeing others. Believers are reminded that no one is more important than another, because all people bear God's image and are equally valued by Him. Mission flows from recognizing this shared dignity and choosing to honor others above oneself.

The discussion focuses on the church as a unified body, where every person has a distinct role and gift that contributes to the whole. Spiritual maturity is shown not through self-promotion, but through service, mutual dependence, and a willingness to lift others up rather than compete with them.

A major emphasis is placed on how believers treat people—especially those who are difficult, different, or even opposed to them. Loving sincerely, blessing instead of retaliating, and overcoming evil with good are presented as central to Christian mission.

True mission is not about winning arguments, but about reflecting Christ through patience, compassion, and consistent love.

The message also stresses the power of speech. Words should build bridges rather than create chasms, making it easier—not harder—for others to encounter Jesus. Speaking truth must always be paired with love, humility, and a desire to edify rather than dominate.

Ultimately, the message calls believers to adopt the mindset of Christ: willingly setting aside pride, serving from underneath, and intentionally drawing out the best in others. When humility replaces pride and honor replaces judgment, the mission of Christ becomes more credible, more powerful, and more inviting to the world.

Section II: Study questions AI generated

60-Minute Facilitator Guide (Study Questions)

0–5 min — Welcome & Set the Aim

1. **Opening check-in:** In one sentence, what word or phrase summarizes your week (joyful, strained, distracted, hopeful, etc.)?
2. **Purpose framing:** The notes say the goal is to *minister to one another* and let the Spirit guide—not to “finish the study.” What would “ministry to one another” look like in this hour?

5–15 min — “Seeing People Differently” (Core Theme)

1. Pastor asked: **“Have you ever said, ‘I will love that person...but I don’t really like that person?’”**
 - What do you think a person means when they say that?
 - What might it reveal about what they believe love is?
2. Pastor followed with: **“What if we began to see people differently?”**
 - What would “seeing people differently” look like in real life (at home, work, church, online)?
 - What are 2–3 practical steps that would move you toward that?
3. The notes emphasize that every person bears God’s image and therefore deserves dignity and respect.
 - How does this reshape the way we respond to people who are difficult, wrong, rude, or “other”?

Facilitator tip: If discussion gets abstract, ask for **one concrete relationship** (no names needed) where “seeing differently” would change everything.

15–30 min — Humility vs. Pride (How Mission Gets Stronger)

1. Pastor says humility begins with: **“You are not better than anyone.”**
 - Where do you most feel the pull to rank yourself above or below others?
 - What helps you return to “sober judgment” about yourself?
2. Mark observes: **Pride looks for flaws and judges; humility looks for value, sees potential, and seeks to edify instead of win.**
 - Think of a recent disagreement: were you trying to win or to edify? What did that produce?

- What would it have looked like to “define value in potential” in that moment?
- 3. Pastor says: **Humility doesn’t ask “How can I prove I’m right?” but “How can I bring the best out in that person?”**
 - What’s one relationship where you could shift from proving to building?
 - What “bringing out the best” action could you take this week?
- 4. Pastor described his role as **“lead servant... serving from underneath... lifting others up so they can see themselves the way God sees them.”**
 - Where are you already “serving from underneath,” even if no one notices?
 - Where is God inviting you to serve in a quieter, more supportive way?

30–45 min — Honor, Enemies, and the Hard Commands

1. The notes push the group to wrestle with honoring *everyone* and blessing instead of retaliating.
 - Which command in this section feels hardest for you personally: honoring, blessing, not repaying, living at peace, feeding an enemy? Why?
1. The notes ask: **Have you ever seen an enemy become a friend over time?**
 - What changed—your posture, their posture, time, prayer, an act of kindness?
1. There’s a pointed question: **Can you honor a person and not that person’s behavior?**
 - What does that distinction look like in practice?
 - Where do you find that easiest, and where is it most challenging?
1. The notes include a scenario about prayer/offense and “policing” speech.
 - When someone says your prayer/faith language offends them, what response best reflects humility and mission?
 - When (if ever) is it appropriate to “police” someone else’s speech? Who should do it?

45–55 min — Speech That Narrows the Distance to Jesus

1. Pastor says: **“Our speech should be making the distance from the hearer to Jesus a little narrower.”**
 - What kinds of speech build bridges? What kinds create chasms?
 - Think of your last tough conversation—did it narrow the distance or widen it?
1. The notes ask: **How do you honor others in conversation without compromising your faith?**
 - What does “truth in love” sound like (tone, pace, posture)?
 - What is one phrase you could retire (because it escalates) and one phrase you could adopt (because it edifies)?

55–60 min — Application & Prayer

1. The follow-up application suggests: **honor everyone this week, look for the best in one person each day, and represent Jesus with humility.**
 - Which one will you practice this week, and what’s your first step in the next 24 hours?
1. **Close in prayer:** Ask for humility that builds others up, speech that creates bridges, and eyes that see God’s image in people.

Optional “If You Have Extra Time” (Choose 1)

- **Body & gifts prompt:** Where do you see your unique “gift” strengthening the group, and where do you need others to strengthen you?
- **Argument audit:** What typically triggers you into a “gotta win mode,” and what would help you stay in the “edifying mode”?

Section III: Complete study notes

Pastor Mark began with a passage from Romans 12. Take a moment to consider Paul’s exhortations. Examine his description of being on mission. ³*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgment, according to the measure of faith God has given you.* ⁴*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function,* ⁵*so in Christ we who are many are one body, and each member belongs to one another.*

1. What do you see?
2. How important is each of us to one another? Explain.
3. Can any member of your body function apart from the rest of the body?

⁶*We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If one’s gift is prophecy, let him use it in proportion to his faith; ⁷if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

1. What do you see?
2. Examine your own body? What “gift” does your hand have that your eye does not have?
3. Why is this important to remember?

⁹*Love must be sincere. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.* ¹⁰*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.* ¹¹*Do not let your zeal subside; keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*

1. What do you see? List the steps Paul outlines here.
2. What practical steps can be taken to fulfill Paul’s commands here?
3. Has your zeal ever wavered or even subsided? Do you have a testimony?

¹²*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, persistent in prayer.*

1. What do each of these steps require?
2. What does it mean to be “joyful in hope?”
3. What does prayer inspire? Why are we required to be persistent?
4. What happens when we stop praying?
5. What does it mean when we continue to pray and do not cease?

¹³*Share with the saints who are in need. Practice hospitality.* ¹⁴*Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse.* ¹⁵*Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but associate with the lowly. Do not be conceited.*

1. Discuss each step here.
2. Which is the most difficult to obey for you?
3. What successes have you experienced?

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. Paul is quoting directly from Deuteronomy 36:³⁵Vengeance is Mine; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; for their day of disaster is near, and their doom is coming quickly. ³⁶For the LORD will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants when He sees that their strength is gone and no one remains, slave or free, and from Proverbs 25:²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ²²For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. Why is this counterintuitive?
2. Have you ever seen an enemy become a friend over time? Do you have a testimony?
3. Why is this step more fun than seeking revenge?

After reading this question, Pastor asked, "Have you ever said, 'I will love that person...but I don't really like that person?'"

1. Answer him.
2. What does this statement really mean? What does it say about the one who says it?
3. He asks, "What if we began to see people differently?" What does he mean?
4. List steps to "seeing people differently." Use the passage from Romans above.
5. How does our own attitude dictate how we treat others?
6. Pastor described his own role in the church as "lead servant." How would you describe a pastor's role?
7. He said, "My role is to serve from underneath, to lift others up, elevating them to where they can see themselves the way that God sees them." How does that work?

He said, "We are to start by understanding Genesis 1:²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. We need to recognize that each person bears the image of God. We need to treat each person with respect and dignity, as God's image bearers.

1. What do you see?
2. Who is included?
3. Is any human being excluded?
4. What responsibility is implied concerning our own behavior?
5. If we are each made in His image, does this suggest a purpose? Explain.
6. Pastor says, "Humility begins at the realization that you are not better than anyone." Explain.
7. Look back at Romans 12:10 above. "*Outdo yourselves in honoring one another.*" How does this become a sport? Who wins in your circles?
8. In your circles, who is the most humble? Prove it.
9. Look at 1 Peter 2:¹⁷*Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.* Compare what Peter says to what we see Paul saying. How important is this instruction? Why?
10. Whom are we to honor? Who is excluded?

Mark observes, "Humility does something pride cannot do. Pride looks for flaws. Pride assesses and judges. Humility looks for value, sees potential and defines the value in that potential. Pride seeks to win arguments, and humility seeks to edify instead."

1. Explain. What happens when you seek to win an argument?
2. What happens when our goal is to edify, instead of having our view accepted?
3. Look at Proverbs 18:² *A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.* Does this verse fit? Explain.
4. Do you have a testimony?
5. Compare this to Paul's exhortation to the Philippians 2: ³*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves.*⁴*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* What do you see?
6. Pastor asks how this would change your conversation. What do you think?
7. Have you ever been treated this way, with unusual deference? What impact does this behavior have on the one being so treated?

Pastor says, "Humility doesn't ask, 'How can I prove that I'm right?' It asks, 'How can I bring the best out in that person?' Your mission becomes far more powerful when you start building others up instead of tearing them down. I wonder if people would be more apt to receiving our Jesus if we treated them with more respect and dignity."

1. What are your thoughts?
2. Have you any experience with this principle?
3. When Peter exhorts us to honor the emperor, above, of which emperor is he speaking?
4. What do you know of Nero? (If you know too much, do not go into detail. Ephesians 5:¹²[For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.](#))
5. How does one "honor" such a one?
6. Can you honor a person, and not that person's behavior? Explain.
7. Pastor spoke of how, as Senate Chaplain, he prayed a prayer that offended one who was in the chamber, and they told him so. What is your response to that person, if it is your prayer that offends?
8. Has your speech ever been policed? What was your reaction?
9. Do you ever find yourself policing others' speech?
10. Whose speech needs to be policed? Who should do the policing?
11. Does your speech create bridges or chasms? What do others say about that?
12. Pastor says, "Our speech should be making the distance from the hearer to Jesus a little narrower." Explain.
13. Are you compromising your faith by withholding in your speech?
14. Between an acorn and a full grown oak tree, which is more suited to an open field? Why?
15. What does that parable say about one's conversation? Is it easier to implant a whole book? Or an idea drawn from a book?
16. How do you honor others in conversation without compromising your own faith?
17. Does the truth need to be defended? Explain.
18. It is said, "Truth is the only indelible substance in the university." Explain.
19. Can Truth be altered?

20. Have you ever tried to defend truth?

Paul puts it this way in Ephesians 4:¹⁵*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ Himself, who is the head. ¹⁶From Him the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part.*

1. What happens when the truth is spoken in love?
2. Who does the speaking?
3. What does this add to the body analogy we saw in Romans 12 and which we find in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26?

Now look at Philippians 2:⁵*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.*

1. What do you see?
2. What did Jesus do, in practical terms?
3. What was his strategy?
4. How effective was his strategy?

Look how Paul explains his strategy in 1 Corinthians 9:¹⁹*Though I am free of obligation to anyone, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), to win those under the law. ²¹To those without the law I became like one without the law (though I am not outside the law of God but am under the law of Christ), to win those without the law.*

1. What do you see?
2. How did Paul's strategy compare to Jesus' own strategy?
3. Was there ever any obligation to compromise in this? Explain.
4. What was Paul's purpose?
5. Pastor points out that Paul's and Jesus' biggest detractors came from the religious. Can you explain why?
6. Pastor says, "Jesus treated people with astonishing dignity." Take a moment, and list those people whom Jesus treated with astonishing dignity.

Take the time to pray.

Follow up application:

1. Use the **Soap study below** to pursue your own understanding.
 2. Honor everyone this week. Make a list...take notes.
 3. Look for the best in one person each day, and note how that changes your attitude. Catch them doing something awesome, and mention it out loud. Not how they respond.
 4. Deliberately represent Jesus well, with humility. Note how that works.
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For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Romans 12:3-5
Tuesday: Romans 12:6-8
Wednesday: Romans 12:9-12
Thursday: 12:13-16
Friday: Romans 12:17-21
Saturday: Ephesians 4:15-16
Sunday: 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.